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**PASTORAL LETTER**  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INSTALLATION OF  
**HIS GRACE PETER FLAVIANUS TURGEON,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.**

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Quebec, 9th October, 1850.

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**ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.**



**PETER FLAVIANUS TURGEON,**

**By the Mercy of God and the Grace of the Holy Apostolic See  
Archbishop of Quebec, &c., &c.**

*To the Clergy, and to the Faithful of our Archdiocese, Greeting and  
Benediction in the Lord.*

Undoubtedly, DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN, you have been as well as ourselves  
painfully affected by the sad bereavement which this Diocese has so lately sustained.  
God has withdrawn, from the midst of us, him who, for the last eighteen years, was

our common father and Pastor, whose mildness and zeal you must have so often admired, His Grace My Lord JOSEPH SIGNAY, our venerable Archbishop. You will weep over his loss, citizens of Quebec, who have seen him, during so many years, exercise among you the laborious and awfully responsible functions of parish priest; you will weep over him, inhabitants of the rural districts, whom he so fondly loved to visit and to comfort with words of peace and encouragement; you will weep over him principally you, our worthy fellow-labourers in the vineyard of the Lord, who have experienced so many proofs of his goodness and affection, and who have always beheld in him, the pious and the modest priest, the prudent and charitable Prelate, the model and firm support of ecclesiastical discipline. Can we ever forget the sacerdotal virtues, which shone forth so brightly in the government of the important parishes intrusted to his care, his efforts to promote the moral and religious education of his flock, his fidelity in regularly visiting the parishes of his immense diocese, which he continued to visit, notwithstanding his advanced age and increasing infirmities, until exhausted nature sank under the heavy burthen. But his distinctive virtue, and the one which assimilated him the most to his divine master, was his tender solicitude and fond affection for youth, this so interesting a portion of his flock. He fully understood the import of those words of the amiable Jesus: *Suffer little children to come to me*; the holy Prelate assiduously broke the bread of the divine word to them, encouraged them in their studies, was delighted with their innocent amusements, and kindly pointed out to them the paths of duty and virtue.

For nearly a year, the venerable old man had been relieved from the weighty burthen of the administration of his Diocese, but nevertheless he did not abandon his beloved flock. Like another Moses, unable any longer to fight the battles of the Lord, from his retreat on the mountain, with extended hands, he blessed his people, and implored in their behalf the protection of the Lord of Hosts. The Lord has removed him from among us, but he has not severed the ties which unite the Pastor to the flock, and the flock to the Pastor. The prayers of the holy Prelate in behalf of his children ascend before the throne of the Father of mercies, and you, D. B. B., who know that the justice of men will be weighed, before the Most-High, according to the weight of the sanctuary, you will unite your suppliant voices with ours, to implore the Sovereign Judge that he may grant to his servant a place of refreshment, of light, and of peace in the bosom of Abraham.

Though we had already received from our venerated predecessor the government of his diocese, we now, at his death, feel the weight of the burthen doubly increased. Already weakened by the chills of old age and its consequent infirmities, it is not without a certain degree of apprehension and dismay, that we contemplate

the multiplied and arduous duties before us, in these trying times in which we live. And indeed, D. B. B., is there any one among us so ignorant as not to know that in this country, so long distinguished for its inviolate attachment to faith, there are to be found men born in the bosom of catholicity, who have boldly reared the standard of infidelity, and have laboured to sow the hideous principles of unbelief not only in our towns, but also in our rural districts? Is there any so blind as not to see, that temporal and perishable interests are entering into, and taking possession of the hearts of many of our brethren, to the exclusion of the sentiments of justice, of religion, of probity for which our fore-fathers were distinguished? Yes, the enemy has entered into the field of the Lord. *Inimicus homo hoc fecit* (Math. XIII, 28.); He has begun to sow cockle among the good seed. *Superseminavit zizaniam in medio tritici* (ibid : . . . 25). Humble reapers, let us pray that he may banish afar the enemies of his house and holy inheritance.

Notwithstanding these incessant assaults of the spirit of darkness, we firmly hope, D. B. B., that God will not abandon us in the midst of those difficulties. If the emissaries of the evil-one are numerous, the friends of virtue, multiplied by the grace of the Lord, will unite and combine to stay the ravages of the enemy of our salvation: the Most-High will lend an attentive ear to the fervent prayers, which, from every part of our Diocese, will ascend to his throne to implore mercy in our behalf.

The faithful Israelites, who have not yet bent the knee before Baal, are too numerous to allow us to lose the hope that he will regard with mercy our humble exertions in his own cause. Our hearts are filled with joy, seeing our worthy clergy arrayed in the foremost ranks, and their zeal increasing with the growing wants and necessities of their position. The proofs of their fidelity and self-devotedness are exhibited in those numerous Retreats, where the faith of a notable portion of our people is invigorated and their morals purified, in those associations of temperance, of colonisation, of education, so eminently calculated to render our diocesans a moral, enlightened and happy people.

We rely on the cooperation of the devoted Brothers of the Christian Schools, who, by training the younger portion of our flock in piety, docility and knowledge, have already effected an immensity of good, both in our cities and villages. May their precious institutions increase and multiply, and extend the mild influence of religion, even to the remotest boundaries of Canada!

In the enumeration of the resources on which we may depend, we cannot forget those courageous virgins, faithful daughters of the La Peltrie's, the Mance's and the Youville's, who so generously devote themselves to the service of the poor, the care of the sick and the protection of the orphan. Nor can we lose sight of the

worthy daughters of St. Ursula and Sister Bourgeois, whose unceasing exertions in the education of the young females intrusted to their care have been constantly crowned with so much success. May the Lord continue to bless their labours of love, and reward them a hundred fold for the services they render to our beloved diocesans!

And you, D. B. B. who live in the world, you will also assist us, you will cheer and console us under the pressure of the painful functions of our ministry, by your zeal in availing yourselves of the means of salvation which will be offered to you, by your docility to the voice of your pastors, and your inviolate attachment to the religion of your forefathers, which they bequeathed to you as your most precious inheritance.

Amidst all those subjects of hope and consolation passing before our mind; one chiefly appears which we hail with love and delight. *O! spes nostra salve.* Yes, D. B. B., we are fully confident that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patroness of this Diocese will turn her merciful eyes towards us, and will recommend ourselves and our beloved flock to her divine Son, the author of every good grace and of every perfect gift. *Omne datum optimum et omne donum perfectum desursum est* (St. James I, 17.). What have we to fear from the powers of Hell, under the protection of this Holy Virgin, who has crushed the head of the ancient serpent? *Ipsa conteret caput tuum* (Gen. III, 15.).

Anxious, D. B. B., to tread in the footsteps of our illustrious predecessors, who have left after them so many monuments of their zeal for the welfare of their flock and for the honour of their clergy, we consider it our bounden duty to preserve and enforce the wise regulations they have adopted for that end.

Wherefore, having previously invoked the Holy name of God, we have decreed and hereby do decree what follows:

1° We renew and confirm, in as much as required, all the ordinances of the Venerable Prelates, our Predecessors, with all the explanations, modifications and alterations which they deemed expedient to adopt, and which they have duly promulgated by their pastoral or circular letters.

2° In like manner, we confirm and renew all the written faculties given to the priests of our archdiocese which have not been revoked.

3° Lastly we renew and confirm all the faculties granted, either orally, or in writing, by our predecessors or their Vicars General, for the confession of Nuns.

This our present Pastoral Letter is to be read in chapter, in all religious houses, and to be published (with the exception of the 2nd and 3rd articles) at the *Prône* of all the churches and chapels, wherein divine service is publicly celebrated, the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at Quebec, under our signature, the seal of our arms and the counter-signature of our Secretary, the eighth of October, One thousand eight hundred and fifty.



P. F. ARCHE. OF QUEBEC.

By His Grace's command,

C. F. CAZEAU, Prst,  
Secretary.